(c) and (d) The cadre of Deputy Office Superintendent Level-I and Level-II are Zone/Commissionerate based cadres. Promotion from these grades to the grade of Administrative Officer depends on the number of vacancies in the grade of Administrative Officer in a Zone. As regards the revision of the pay scales of various ministerial grades including the grades of Deputy Office Superintendent Level-I and Level-II, the matter is under examination by the Government.

Increase in ECB

519. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that External Commercial Borrowing (ECB) by Indian corporates crossed $5.1 million in six months ending September 2004 despite rejection of many proposals and depreciating rupee;

(b) if so, the names of top twenty corporates who resorted to ECB and details of those whose cases were rejected;

(c) the terms and conditions on which ECBs have been availed of and the major countries/agencies involved; and

(d) the reasons for rejection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Changes in Clause 41 of SEBI

520. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is considering to reduce the percentage of variation between unaudited and audited results to 10 per cent or rupees ten lacs, whichever is higher, in case of net profit after tax;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) The changes proposed to be effected in Clause 41 of the listing agreement concerning the submission of financial results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) Presently, listed companies are required to disclose variation between the unaudited and audited results

items by 20 per cent or more for the full year and explain the reasons for the same to the stock exchanges. The Accounting Standards Committee (ASC), SEBI had recommended that the percentage of variation between the unaudited results and the limited review/audited results, as applicable be reduced from '20% or more' to 10% or Rs. 10 lakhs, whichever is higher, in case of net profit after tax. Regarding submission of financial results the ASC has *inter-alia* recommended that companies would be required to prepare unaudited quarterly or half yearly results with one month of the close of the quarter or half year as applicable and the same shall be approved by the Board of Directors and subjected to a "Limited Review" by the auditors of the company (or by any chartered accountant in case of Public Sector Undertakings) and a copy of the review report shall be submitted to the stock exchange within two months after the close of the quarter or half year, as applicable.

The aforesaid recommendations were placed on the SEBI website for inviting public comments and further processing thereafter.

Devolution of powers to Panchayats

521. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are committed to full devolution of powers to the Panchayat level;

(b) whether recent policy decisions in this regard do not vests the financial power at Panchayat level with the same remaining under the control of district administrator; and

(c) whether Government are willing to let Panchayat raise their own resources and manage the funds?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) Article 243G of the Constitution of India vests the State Legislature with powers to make laws to endow the Panchayats with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as institutions of self-government in respect of 29 subjects listed in the XI Schedule. Similarly, Article 243H of the Constitution provides that the legislature of the State may, by law, authorize a Panchayat to levy, collect and appropriate taxes, tolls and fees in accordance with the procedure and subejct to such limits as may be prescribed. Almost all the States and UTs have stated that they have devolved funds, functions and functionaries to the